

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 3, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1023

Introduced by Senator Liu

(~~Coauthor:~~ *Principal coauthor:* Senator Steinberg)

(*Coauthors: Senators Correa, Galgiani, Hancock, Hueso, and Monning*)

February 14, 2014

An act to add Article 4.3 (commencing with Section 79156) to Chapter 9 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1023, as amended, Liu. Community colleges: foster youth.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes them to operate campuses and provide instruction.

This bill would authorize the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, in cooperation with the State Department of Social Services and county child welfare agencies, to enter into agreements with community college districts to provide additional funds for services in support of postsecondary education for foster youth through a program to assemble and coordinate cooperating agency resources. The bill would provide that these support services include, but are not necessarily limited to, child care and transportation allowances, allowances for books and supplies, counseling and mental health services, career counseling, matriculation and transfer counseling,

monitoring of academic progress, tutoring and mentoring, independent living skills support, ~~housing assistance~~, frequent in-person contact, *outreach and recruitment*, and other related services, *as well as referrals to mental health services and housing assistance*.

The bill would authorize community college districts to apply to the board of governors for funding under the *program created by the bill*, as specified. The bill would require that a participating student be a current or former foster youth in California whose dependency was established *or continued* by the court on or after the student's 16th birthday, be no older than 25 years of age at the commencement of any academic year in which he or she participates in the program, and be enrolled for at least 9 units per semester.

The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that, consistent with specified requirements in the Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012, and to the extent that a participating community college meets specified responsibilities set forth in that act, any student who participates in the program established by this bill ~~may~~ also receive specified matriculation services under that act.

The bill would require the board of governors to submit a biennial report, commencing no later than January 31, 2017, and no later than January 31 of each odd-numbered year thereafter, providing prescribed information about this program.

The bill would be operative in a fiscal year only if ~~the board of governors certifies, pursuant to a resolution, that~~ sufficient funds have been appropriated for purposes of the bill for that fiscal year.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) There are 57,000 children and youth in California's foster
- 4 care system who have been removed from their biological families
- 5 due to maltreatment and placed into the care and custody of the
- 6 State of California.
- 7 (b) The Legislature recognizes the historic underrepresentation
- 8 of foster youth in postsecondary programs and the need for
- 9 equitable efforts that enhance the enrollment and retention of foster
- 10 youth in public colleges and universities in California.

1 (1) By 21 years of age, 45 percent of former foster youth will
2 graduate from high school, as compared to 80 percent of
3 Californians of the same age. By 26 years of age, 4.4 percent of
4 foster youth will receive a two-year degree and 3.8 percent will
5 earn a four-year degree, rates significantly below the same-age
6 population in California.

7 (2) Low educational attainment is a factor in the poor adult
8 outcomes experienced by youth in foster care. Compared to their
9 same-age counterparts, former foster youth at 26 years of age are
10 400 percent more likely to have been incarcerated and 300 percent
11 more likely to be living below the federal poverty level.

12 (3) Current and former foster youth who attend community
13 college experience a low rate of persistence, transfer, and degree
14 completion. Only 41 percent of current and former foster youth in
15 community college persisted at least one year as compared to 62
16 percent of the general student population.

17 (c) The Legislature recognizes its responsibility to provide and
18 adequately fund postsecondary programs and services for students
19 who are current and former foster youth attending public
20 postsecondary institutions.

21 (d) Therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to take steps to
22 encourage the enrollment, retention, and transfer of current and
23 former foster youth in California's community colleges by
24 establishing an education program that provides services that
25 promote their academic success. Providing academic support to
26 current and former foster youth in California's community colleges
27 serves a significant governmental and public interest, namely the
28 reduction in poverty and criminal justice involvement among youth
29 who have been in foster care in California.

30 SEC. 2. Article 4.3 (commencing with Section 79156) is added
31 to Chapter 9 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the Education
32 Code, to read:

33
34 Article 4.3. Support Services for Foster Youth Attending
35 Community College
36

37 79156. The Chancellor's Office of the California Community
38 Colleges, in cooperation with the State Department of Social
39 Services and county child welfare agencies, may enter into
40 agreements with community college districts to provide additional

1 funds for services in support of postsecondary education for foster
2 youth through a program to assemble and coordinate cooperating
3 agency resources. This program shall be known as the cooperating
4 agencies foster youth educational support program, *and shall*
5 *expand the number of students participating in the Community*
6 *College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and shall*
7 *not displace other students. The funding provided pursuant to this*
8 *article shall be separate and apart from the funding provided under*
9 *existing cooperative agencies resources for education programs*
10 *pursuant to Section 79150. Support services shall include, but not*
11 *necessarily be limited to, child care and transportation allowances,*
12 *allowances for books and supplies, counseling-and-mental-health*
13 *services, career counseling, matriculation and transfer counseling,*
14 *monitoring of academic progress, tutoring and mentoring,*
15 *independent living skills support, housing assistance, frequent*
16 *in-person contact, and outreach and recruitment, other related*
17 *services, and referrals to mental health services and housing*
18 *assistance.*

19 79157. A community college district may apply to the board
20 of governors for funding pursuant to this article. The application
21 of each participating community college district shall demonstrate
22 that all existing district resources reasonably available have been
23 exhausted, and shall provide the number of foster youth who will
24 be served. The application shall also describe the extent of
25 cooperation between the local county child welfare department,
26 the State Department of Social Services, the local educational
27 opportunity programs and services program, and the district.

28 79158. A student participant in this program shall meet both
29 of the following requirements:

30 (a) Be a current or former foster youth in California whose
31 dependency was established *or continued* by the court on or after
32 the youth's 16th birthday.

33 (b) Be no older than 25 years of age at the commencement of
34 any academic year in which he or she participates in the program.

35 79159. Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 56220 of
36 Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, the ~~chancellor~~
37 *director of the Community College Extended Opportunity*
38 *Programs and Services at each community college* may authorize
39 students who are enrolled for at least nine units per semester to
40 participate in this program.

1 79159.5. It is the intent of the Legislature that, consistent with
2 the requirements and intent outlined in subdivisions (b) and (c) of
3 Section 78215, and to the extent that a participating community
4 college meets the responsibilities outlined in paragraph (2) of
5 subdivision (a) of Section 78212, any student who participates in
6 the program pursuant to this article ~~may~~ participate in the program
7 of services outlined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section
8 78212.

9 79160. The board of governors, in conjunction with the State
10 Department of Social Services, shall adopt guidelines for the
11 program. The board of governors shall be responsible for the
12 administration of the funds for the program.

13 79161. Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government
14 Code, commencing January 31, 2017, and every two years
15 thereafter, the board of governors shall submit a report to the
16 Governor, the education policy committees of the Legislature, and
17 the California Child Welfare Council describing its efforts to serve
18 students who are current and former foster youth. These biennial
19 reports shall also include a review on a campus-by-campus basis
20 of the enrollment, retention, transfer, and completion rates of foster
21 youth, including categorical funding of those programs.

22 79162. This article shall be operative in a fiscal year only if
23 ~~the board of governors certifies, pursuant to a resolution, that~~
24 ~~sufficient~~ funds have been appropriated for purposes of this article
25 for that fiscal year.